energy cost is much higher not only because of the rate of energy but also because of the higher consumption that you are doing. Thirdly, the incidence of taxation is very high. Fourthly, the interest rate is very high. It is about 15 per cent here, whereas in Japan and South Korea it is less than 6 per cent. So, I want the Minister to give us the particulars of these aspects, the input cost, the energy consumption, the incidence of taxation and the interest rate and compare them with all other country in the world so that we can know whether it is total mismanagement by you or it is a fault of others because the labour cost is only one-fifth of what it is in the USA or in Japan. Despite being in such an advantageous position, you are mismanaging the whole thing. I do not mean it is personally you. The Government is doing all these things. So, please explain these five points.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: With all respect to the Hon. Member, he will not do justice if he says that we are doing mismanagement because this year also we have made a profit of Rs. 340 crores. This is one of the best public sector undertakings in the country.

The Hon. Member is very much correct that the input cost in our country are high. Probably you are aware of the fact that some of the input costs are beyond our control.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: When I said "mismanagement", I meant mismanagement by the Government. I did not mean mismanagement by the steel plant ... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him reply. He has not completed it.

हो सकता है वह आपके सवाल का जवाब आपकी मर्जी के मुताबिक दें ।

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The railway freight is one of the input costs. The power price is another input cost. There is cost involved in the form of tax. The Hon. Members have rightly mentioned that in all the States where public sector undertakings are there, we are the holy cow for the State Governments to get revenue. They are taking it in the form of some tax or other. These are the input costs. Many things are beyond our control.

The Hon. Member will be pleased to know that this year in the consumption of coal, water, electricity, crude, steel etc. we have been able to save more than Rs. 85 crores. That consciousness has been developed among the workers, and they have been able to meet the situation.

As regards the rate of interest, this year the rate of interest has been reduced by 1 per cent. Not only that, but on the capital goods which are coming in for modernisation or for new steel plants, the Government has reduced the customs duty. It is also a fact that the customs duty for import of products coming to compete with our domestic products has also been reduced. The idea of the Government is that we should be competitive. The Hon. Member is also right when he says that our labour cost is one of the cheapest in the world. There is no doubt about it. But labour is also a power for us. It is not a burden. That power has given strength to the Steel Ministry. I fully appreciate what the Hon. Member says about the cost of production. But we are not higher than the other countries. As he rightly says, the main burden for us is the rate of interest for the finances we have had. In the U.S. and the U.K., it is four per cent; in Japan it is six per cent. We have to give 14 per cent. But, of late, for the last three years, we are not taking any budgetary support. We are having our investment cost met from our own resources and market borrowing. We have gone to the Cabinet for reconstruction of our capital base so that we can make it more effective and thereby, I think, we will be able to solve gradually many of the problems mentioned by the Hon. Member. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I wanted comparative figures.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, I do not have the figures with me now. I can send them to him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I have three or four names. But we have had only three questions. I think we should move on to Question No. 364. Question No. 364.

अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों के उम्मीदवारों को छात्रवृत्तियां

* 364. **श्रीमती चन्द्रिका अभिनन्दन जैन**: क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों के उम्मीदवारों को व्यावसायिक पायलट लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रशिक्षण हेतु छात्रवृत्तियां देने का कोई निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है; और प्रत्येक वर्ष कितनी छात्रवृत्तियां प्रदान की जाएंगी ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the table of the House (*See* below).

(c) There is a provision for granting 20 scholarships each year for Commercial Pilot Licence training with a view to enables SC/ST candidates to take up flying as a career.

Details of scholarships for Commercial Pilot Licence Training

Scholarships are provided to eligible SC/ST candidates for undertaking Commercial Pilot Licence Training under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for SC/ST students. The scholarships provide for payment of compulsory non-refundable fees, including flying charges, as well as maintenance allowance of Rs. 190 per month for hostellers and Rs. 125 per month for day scholars.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Madam, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are the deprived classes for centurics and not enough has been done to improve their lot. The poet has rightly said :

कितने युगों से प्यासे सोचो यारो सोचो तो,
शबनम का हर एक कतरा दरिया लगता है ।

To my mind, the answer is not in confrontation but it lies in development. The poet has said again :

किस को कसकर पत्थर मारूं कौन पराया है,
शीशमहल में इक-इक चेहरा अपना लगता है ।

Madam, this is a Centrally-sponsored scheme for training commercial pilots. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how many students have availed themselves of this scheme. I am told their number is 20. It is restricted to only 20. It is a very small number. What steps is the Government going to take to see that the number is increased ? In reality, how many students have become commercial pilots and what are the funds available for the scheme ?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : दो शेरों के साथ सवाल किया गया है कम से कम एक शेयर के साथ जवाब होना चाहिए ।

उपसभापति : शेर बन कर तो दे सकते हैं बहादुरी से

like a lawyer, if you cannot recite a 'sher'.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU : Madam, scholarships are provided to eligible SC/ST candidates for undertaking Commercial Pilot Licence Training under the Centrally-sponsored scheme of post-matric scholarships for SC/ST students. The scholarships provide for payment of compulsory non-refundable fees, including flying charges as well as maintenance allowance. (*Interruptions*).

Madam, this year, we have increased it from 15 to 20 students from SC/ST communities to make them career pilots. Our Government is conscious of the fact that we can improve the lot of the SC and ST communities. That is why we have increased it from 15 to 20. There is no bar to more candidates coming. We are certainly willing to give more. So far, in the year 1992-93, only three candidates have come through the West Bengal Government. Four other candidates, one from U.P. and three from Maharashtra also came. And we have sanctioned the schemes. Apart from the 20 scholarships for Commercial Pilot Licences from the Government of India, the Civil Aviation Ministry, 40 students can get the CPL licence. That is also available. There is no dearth of programmes. We are willing to support more candidates if they come forward. In order to promote this area, for this year, we have given advertisement and more candidates are coming forward. We will do our best to see that the SC/ST candidates join this field. The Government is willing to support them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूची में और अधिक जातियों को शामिल किया जाना

*365. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या **कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से आग्रह किया है कि कुल्लु, कांगड़ा, ऊना और हमीरपुर जिलों में रहने वाले गद्दियों और गुजरों को अनुसूचित जनजाति घोषित किया जाए;

(ख) यदि हां, तो केन्द्रीय सरकार को उक्त आग्रह किस तारीख को प्राप्त हुआ; और

(ग) क्या अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूचियों में व्यापक संशोधन के अन्तर्गत उपर्युक्त प्रस्ताव पर भी कार्यवाही की गई है; यदि हां, तो कब, और यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में कब तक कार्यवाही किये जाने की संभावना है ?

कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० वी० इंगकाबालु) : (क) से (ग) पंजाब राज्य के पूनर्गठन के परिणामस्वरूप जो क्षेत्र इस राज्य में मिलाए गए, उनके गद्दियों और गुजरों को अनुसूचित जनजाति के रूप में घोषित करने का हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का प्रस्ताव 13-3-1981 को प्राप्त हुआ था । ऐसे सभी